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Approved For Release 2003/08/08 : CIA-RDP79R00890A000400040043-2

NSC BRIEFING

18 December 1954

**OFFSHORE ISLANDS**

- I. Situation in islands very quiet for past three weeks.
  - A. Sporadic shelling of Ichiang (north of Tachens) and Quemoy continues, and Communist planes still patrol over Tachens.
  - B. Heavy seas and winter monsoons will make attacks difficult, but there is still possibility of invasion of Quemoy or other islands close to coast.
- II. Chinese Communists taking steps to improve capabilities for future operations against islands, and possibly Formosa.
  - A. Roads in Fukien (opposite Formosa) being improved to ease problem of logistics in area where there are no railroads and where sea supply cannot be guaranteed.

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DOCUMENT NO. **2C**  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. **X**  
CLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C  
NEXT REVIEW DATE: **2010**  
AUTH: HR 75-2  
EXEMPT REVIEWER: **1-480**

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